

standards of performance for long-haul truck drivers. The CMVSA, however, was also imposed upon intrastate commerce where the operation of trucks may be a small but necessary part of an individual's job. We imposed our will on thousands of small businesses not involved in long-haul trucking and somehow expected them to adjust to any circumstance that might arise. Under these conditions, I believe it should be within a state's discretion to determine what kind of commercial vehicle licensure and testing is required for commerce solely within its borders.

I again want to emphasize that it would be entirely up to each state whether it chooses to reassume authority over licensing and testing of intrastate drivers. A state that chooses to exercise this option would in no way diminish the role of the CDL in the long-haul trucking industry. Additionally, this legislation effectively precludes two or more states from using this option as the basis for an interstate compact. I am confident that those states taking advantage of this option will develop testing standards that maintain the same level of safety offered by the federal program. After all, the primary mission of all state DOTs is to ensure the safety of those travelling on its roads.

This legislation is extremely important to our nation's small businesses, and I urge the House to adopt this measure.

THE REINTRODUCTION OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

Ms. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, this is a difficult time. We're worried about the possibility of war and concerned about the men and women in our armed forces, but the best way to honor democracy is to ensure equality and justice for all. That's why we're leading this bipartisan movement for the Equality Amendment for women and men. We intend to do all we can to see that it becomes part of the Constitution, which is where it belongs.

I am proud to be joined by my Republican colleagues, JIM LEACH and JUDY BIGGERT. I am also grateful to the dean of the House, JOHN DINGELL, for his leadership on so many issues important to women; to leading pollster Mark Penn of the firm Penn, Schoen, and Berland; and to the noted economist, Dr. Heidi Hartman. I'd also like to acknowledge the representatives of so many organizations dedicated to improving the lives of women and families.

Women have achieved a great deal, but the statutory route has not been as successful as we hoped. The Glass Ceiling, the Pink Ghetto, the wage gap, the occupation gap, and sexual harassment are real problems. We're reintroducing the Equality Amendment because the only guarantee that American women will never again be subject to inferior treatment is to engrave the principle of women's equality into the Constitution.

We've seen over the years that laws can change, judicial attitudes can shift, and the gains we've won can slip from our grasp. The need for a constitutional guarantee of equal rights for women is compelling. We must do more, much more, to guarantee fair treatment

in the work place. Existing laws can't get the job done, and could be rolled back.

Title IX, which for three decades guaranteed equality in education and in academic sports programs, is being eroded.

Enforcement measures on discrimination laws are backlogged and badly underfunded.

Women continue to be treated differently than men in pensions, insurance, and judicial awards.

Women still have trouble gaining access to housing and to equal pay for equal work. The wage gap persists. In fact, the Dingell-Maloney study that we released last year showed the gap in managerial salaries is actually widening.

Women still earn 76 cents for each dollar earned by a man. After a full day's work, no woman should be forced to take home only three quarters of a paycheck.

Too many women continue to be victims of sexual harassment.

Over nine out of ten Americans support equal rights for men and women, as Mark Penn can discuss. In fact, polling data shows that most Americans think the Constitution already guarantees gender equality—and they don't want it repealed. The ERA would establish that as a reality once and for all. It is time to ensure that the legal right to equality regardless of sex is subject to the same level of judicial review as race or other classes.

With 187 co-sponsors so far, the Equality Amendment has strong support in the House. And it enjoys strong backing in the Senate. Ours is a bipartisan, grass roots effort. With the help of organizations represented here and the over 140 groups that have already endorsed it, I hope we'll be able to move the ERA to a vote.

It is time for women to have an equal place in the Constitution. It is time for the Equal Rights Amendment to become law. Inscribed over the Supreme Court is the statement "Equal Justice Under the Law" and it means ALL people. And in 2003, we intend to SEE that equal justice under the law happens . . . and making the ERA part of the Constitution is the right way to do it.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO: DR. M. EDMUND VALLEJO

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize Dr. Edmund Vallejo of Pueblo, Colorado. Dr. Vallejo has been a dedicated teacher and mentor in the Pueblo community for nearly fifty years. He has made significant contributions as an author and citizen, and it is my honor to pay tribute to his accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

Edmund grew up in an orphanage for boys in Denver and graduated from St. Mary's High School in Walsenburg, Colorado. After a year at Regis University, he joined the U.S. Navy and trained to be an aerial photographer. Edmund served the United States during the Korean War, and received a battle star for taking video footage of the fighting on Bunker Hill and Siberia Hill.

After being discharged, Edmund went back to school, first at Adams State College, then at

the University of Northern Colorado, ultimately receiving a Ph.D. in education from Kansas University in 1975. Edmund spent over thirty-six years in Pueblo School District No. 60 as a teacher, guidance counselor, principal and superintendent. After retiring in 1991, he has furthered his dedication to education by serving as a mentor and tutor to at-risk children in the district, and Edmund now serves as the volunteer coordinator for Communities In Schools of Pueblo, a volunteer mentoring and tutoring program.

Edmund's other interests include both civic service and writing. He is a member of the Kiwanis Club of Pueblo, the Colorado Historical Society Board of Directors, the Rocky Mountain Council Boy Scouts of America Executive Board, the Pueblo School District No. 60 Educational Foundation, the Pueblo Chamber of Commerce, and VFW Post 5812. He is a contributing author to educational and historical journals and has already published a compilation of Colorado photography. He is working on a photo book about his Korean War experiences.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Edmund Vallejo is a remarkable man with an extraordinary lifetime of achievements. He has served his nation, his community, and his students well, and I would like to extend to him my congratulations on a life lived with a passion and dedication to serving others. I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE MEDICAL NUTRITION THERAPY

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with Representatives ANNA ESHOO, J.D. HAYWORTH, and XAVIER BECERRA in introducing the bipartisan Medicare Medical Nutrition Therapy Amendment Act of 2003. Several years ago, we amended the Medicare program to provide coverage for medical nutrition therapy services provided by registered dietitians and nutrition professionals for persons with diabetes or renal disease. The legislation we are introducing today will add Medicare coverage for services for beneficiaries with cardiovascular disease.

Medical nutrition therapy provided by registered dietitians and nutrition professionals is sound health care policy. It can save millions of dollars for a health care system beleaguered by escalating costs, and it can prevent unnecessary pain and suffering for millions of people and their families. In response to a request in the 1997 Balanced Budget Act, the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences studied the value of adding medical nutrition therapy services for Medicare beneficiaries and the Medicare program and issued a report recommending that this benefit be added to the program. The report stated that coverage for medical nutrition therapy will "improve the quality of care and is likely to be a valuable and efficient use of Medicare resources, because of the comparatively low treatment costs and ancillary benefits associated with nutrition therapy." The report concluded that nutrition therapy has proven effective in the "management and treatment of

many chronic diseases that affect Medicare beneficiaries, including . . . hypertension, heart failure, diabetes, and chronic renal insufficiency."

I urge my colleagues who have not yet cosponsored this bipartisan, sound health policy proposal to join us in this effort.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives considered several bills under suspension of the rules yesterday and my vote was not recorded on those measures.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote 50, rollcall vote 51, and rollcall Vote 52.

JAMES FRANCIS HOMAN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize James Francis Homan, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 312, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

James has been very active with his troop, participating in such Scout activities as the Roe Bartle Scout Reservation. Over the 11 years he has been involved in Scouting, he has held numerous leadership positions, serving as Camp Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leader, Quartermaster, and Instructor. James also has been honored for his numerous Scouting achievements with the award of the Firebuilder in the tribe of Mic-O-Say award. Additionally, he has earned 34 merit badges during his years in Scouting.

For his Eagle Scout project, James converted and old pastor's study/storage room into a prayer chapel at Ascension Lutheran Church. He enlisted the services of families, fellow Scouts and members of his congregation to clean the windows, paint and refurbish the room.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending James Francis Homan for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO: UNITED WAY OF PUEBLO COUNTY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the United Way of Pueblo County, Colorado. The United Way has been serving Pueblo County for

eighty years, providing a central resource for donations to support an array of critical community services. It is my honor to commend the Pueblo United Way's long record of success before this body of Congress and this nation.

The United Way organization came to Pueblo in 1923 when community leaders raised \$105,000 by knocking on neighbors' doors. Though this effort went through many name changes, it always pursued the same mission: creating a central community fund to support community services. Today, the Pueblo County United Way is an autonomous organization that can focus its resources on the specialized needs of Pueblo County. It relies on hundreds of dedicated volunteers to raise money and keep administration costs low.

Over the years, the UWPC has raised over \$31 million with its fundraising campaigns for its nineteen partner agencies including the American Red Cross, Pueblo Community Health Center, Salvation Army, and the YWCA. Other United Way partner agencies focus on youth development, providing basic food and shelter, and addressing the problems of domestic abuse. In addition, Pueblo United Way administers an endowment gift from the El Pomar Foundation and FEMA funds from the federal government to assist in emergencies.

Mr. Speaker, the United Way makes every dollar count for the citizens of Pueblo County. Thanks to the United Way, thousands of Coloradans have benefited from the generosity of their neighbors, and thousands more have known the joy of giving. It is my great pleasure to honor their eighty years of success here today. Congratulations, and may the United Way continue to serve Pueblo County long into the future!

HONORING A DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANT, MS. DIANN CONDREY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, there are many unsung heroes who work day and night, week after week, month after month, to support the operation of the United States Congress. Most of these dedicated people labor outside of the spotlight—away from the glamour that is often associated with public service—but their work insures that our work can be done. One such dedicated public servant, Ms. Diann Condrey, will conclude her distinguished tenure on Capitol Hill this month and I rise tonight to salute Diann for her untiring loyalty and service.

Diann began her government career as a high school student in 1968 when she began working with the Department of Defense during the Vietnam war. At that time Diann's salary was a meager \$3,776 a year.

Diann spent the next 16 years working for the Army and Navy originally as a Management assistant and later as a computer specialist and project manager. In 1992, she took a position with the United States House of Representatives as a committee consultant providing computer support services to committees and to leadership offices. In 2000, she became the team leader responsible for training newly hired TSRs.

During my staff days on the Hill, I worked with Diann on a regular basis and got to know her very well. She has been a great asset to our Hill community. Her understanding of often complicated programs was always met with passion for helping her clients understand how to best implement the rapidly changing advances made in computers and technology.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Diann Condrey for her many years of commitment to her Nation through her continued service and employment with the United States. I wish Diann the best of luck in her retirement and always.

THE MEDICARE Rx DRUG BENEFIT AND DISCOUNT ACT OF 2003

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, last week, President Bush announced his prescription drug proposal for Medicare beneficiaries. Rather than using this opportunity to promote a quality drug benefit that would be dependable and guaranteed for seniors and persons with disabilities on Medicare, the President instead announced his intention to provide a financial benefit to pharmaceutical and insurance companies. By pushing seniors into HMOs—the path to Medicare privatization—and doing nothing to lower drug prices, the Bush policy would enrich industry instead of reducing the financial burden on beneficiaries.

Fortunately, an alternative plan, tailored to meet the needs of Medicare beneficiaries, would provide a comprehensive benefit that is both affordable and guaranteed. I support that plan, outlined by Leader NANCY PELOSI, Whip STENY HOYER, and Representatives DINGELL, RANGEL and others, because it puts the needs of Medicare beneficiaries first.

There is no benefit specified in the President's proposal. President Bush proposes that seniors enrolled in the traditional fee-for-service Medicare program would be eligible for catastrophic loss coverage, a discount drug card, and a \$600 subsidy for those in the lowest income bracket. We don't know how much the catastrophic limit would be—\$5,000, \$7,000, or more. A drug card and a requirement that you spend thousands and thousands of dollars out-of-pocket is not a benefit.

There are several major problems with the President's proposal.

First, a catastrophic-only benefit will help very few beneficiaries. The average Medicare beneficiary spends \$2,500 a year for prescription drugs, meaning that they would get no benefit. For example, if the cap for catastrophic coverage is set at \$6,000, it would only cover 8 percent of Medicare beneficiaries. This enormous out-of-pocket expense is on top of existing Medicare cost-sharing requirements, which are already high.

Second, the Bush administration continues to promote drug cards, even when evidence shows the cards provide little assistance. Seniors would purchase the card for approximately \$25 and then receive only 10 percent to 15 percent off their prescription drugs. In other words, an average beneficiary with \$2,500 in drug bills would pay \$2,125 to